

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising:
 - a machine-vision system comprising an internal camera operatively connected to an image capture unit, and a digital signal processing unit; and
 - a camera port connected to the image capture unit, wherein the port is adapted to allow an external camera to be connected to the machine vision system so that the image capture unit can capture images from both the internal camera and the external camera.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an external camera, wherein the external camera outputs a digital signal.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a decoder connected to the camera port and to the image capture unit.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising an external camera, wherein the external camera outputs an analog signal.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the internal camera comprises a lens and an image sensor.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a memory.
7. A process comprising:
 - capturing a first image using a machine vision system comprising an internal camera, an image capture unit, and a digital signal processing unit;
 - storing or processing the first image;
 - capturing a second image using an external camera connected to the image capture unit; and
 - storing or processing the second image.

8. The process of claim 7 wherein the internal camera outputs a digital signal.
9. The process of claim 7 wherein the external camera outputs an analog signal, and further comprising converting the analog signal into a digital signal.
10. A machine-vision system comprising:
- an internal camera operatively connected to an image capture unit, and a digital signal processing unit;
 - a camera port connected to the image capture unit, wherein the port is adapted to allow an external camera to be connected to the machine vision system so that the image capture unit can capture images from both the internal camera and the external camera; and
 - an external camera connected to the camera port.
11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the internal camera comprises a lens and an image sensor.
12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the internal camera outputs a digital signal.
13. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a decoder connected to the camera port and to the image capture unit.
14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the external camera outputs an analog signal.